



**Environmental
Protection**

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Negative Declaration

Notice of Determination of Non-Significance

July 16, 2013

North River Cogeneration

CEQR No. 13DEP008M

This Negative Declaration has been prepared in compliance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act authorized by Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law establishing the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and its implementing regulations set forth in 6 NYCRR Part 617, the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) as required for obtaining financing under the State Environmental Facilities Corporation's State Revolving Loan Fund Program, and the New York City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) process, as set forth in Executive Order 91 of 1977 and its amendments. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP), as lead agency, has determined that the proposed action described below would not have a significant effect on the environment and is herein publishing a Negative Declaration. An Environmental Assessment Statement was distributed on June 7, 2013. The Negative Declaration will be considered final and effective following thirty days of this date if no substantive comments are received which would change the conclusion of the environmental review.

Project Description

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) proposes to replace all ten of the existing tri-fuel pump and blower engines with five new 3.37 megawatt (MW) spark ignited reciprocating engine generators at the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The new engines would be interconnected with the Con Edison electrical system. Four of the five engines would operate at any one time (13.48 MW maximum), with the fifth as a standby unit. The engines would operate on both digester gas and natural gas; fuel oil would no longer be used. Prior to being used in the engines, the digester gas will be treated to remove particulates, moisture, sulfuric acid and siloxanes. Oxidation catalysts would be installed to treat the engine exhaust to meet plant specific requirements for formaldehyde emissions. Waste heat recovery equipment and associated piping sized for the new facility would be installed to improve overall system efficiency. The engines would be housed in the existing engine room and would exhaust through the existing pump engine stacks. Physical stack parameters such as location, height and diameter would remain unchanged. Con Edison would either provide two new feeders (for a total of six feeders) to supply the plant or four new dedicated branch leg feeders of sufficient capacity. New electrical infrastructure would be provided to accommodate the new electrical supply and the cogeneration equipment.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve operations and reliability, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide cost effective solutions over the existing engine driven pump and blower systems.

The project would also include improvements to the sludge handling facilities in the southern end of the WWTP. This work is generally replacement in kind in order to increase digester gas production to enhance operation of the cogeneration facility.

Riverbank State Park's electrical distribution system would also be relocated from the WWTP's distribution switchgear to a new independent substation. The new substation would replace an existing abandoned substation located on the eastern side of the WWTP.

Potential Impact Assessment

As presented in detail in the June EAS, the proposed project would not result in the potential for significant adverse impacts to occur in any aspects of the environment. Detailed discussions of impact categories are presented in the EAS; key conclusions are below:

Hazardous Materials

The separation of park electrical service would involve some excavation activities for new ductbanks. This excavation would occur solely on DEP property to the east of the WWTP; none of this work would occur within Riverbank State Park. No other aspects of the project would involve ground disturbance. A sampling plan will be developed to determine the presence of any hazardous materials in the areas to be excavated. To ensure that the potential for human or environmental exposure to known or unexpected contamination is minimized, a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and associated Construction Health and Safety Plan (CHASP) will be developed based on the results of the sampling. With the implementation of the sampling plan, RAP, and CHASP the project would not result in significant adverse impacts due to hazardous materials.

Historic and Cultural Resources

Although the project would take place in the vicinity of the landmark eligible Riverside Park and Drive Extension, the construction and operation of the facility would not affect these sites. When the project is completed, the plant will look the same as the current condition. All construction activities would take place within the plant and on DEP property and would therefore not affect the landmark eligible sites.

Noise

As part of the project, each new engine will be constructed with a critical grade noise silencer after the heat exchanger in the exhaust gas breeching. Each silencer will be approximately 54 inches in diameter and 12 feet long. The resulting maximum sound pressure levels will be 88 dBA (single engine stack) and 94 dBA (four engine stacks) operating simultaneously, at a distance of 3 feet from the stacks. With the silencers, the project would increase the noise levels would increase by a maximum of 2.5 dBA, as compared to the future without the proposed project noise levels. Changes of this magnitude are considered imperceptible and would not exceed the noise impact criteria in the *CEQR Technical Manual*.

Statement of No Significant Effect

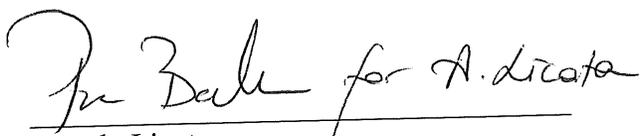
The NYCDEP has determined, pursuant to 6NYCRR Part 617 and the City Executive Order 91 of the 1977 and its amendments and the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation State Environmental Review Process as required for obtaining financing under the State Revolving Fund Program, that the proposed action will not result in any potential significant adverse effects on the quality of the environment. No potential significant adverse impact on hazardous materials, air quality, noise, historic resources, or other impact categories would occur as a result of the proposed action. These conclusions are based on the analyses and conclusions provided within the EAS.

Supporting Statements

The above determination is based on an environmental assessment which finds that the project, as proposed, would not result in significant effects on the environment that would require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

For Further Information Contact:

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